



Nutrition

May 2018

Prepared by the Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research

Program Recommendation

The Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence (COE) compiled this report to provide regional labor market data for the program recommendation of nutrition. This report intends to determine whether there is demand in the local labor market that is not being met by the supply from programs of study.

Based on the labor market supply and demand data, the COE has determined that **there may be an unmet need** for the nutrition program in Los Angeles County. Here are a few important notes to consider:

- Dietetic technician jobs are expected to **increase by 11%** through 2022.
- Nearly **130 job opportunities will be available annually** for this occupation through 2022 due to new job growth and replacement need (e.g., retirements).
- There were 248 online job postings for middle-skill nutrition jobs in 2017.
- Over 56% of the dietetic technician workforce holds some college coursework as their highest level of education, signaling that these positions are middle-skill and appropriate for community college level students.
- Between 2014 and 2017, there was an **average of 24 community college awards conferred** annually across one program: Nutrition, Foods, and Culinary Arts (1306.00).

Occupation Codes and Descriptions

Currently, there is one middle-skill occupation in the standard occupational classification (SOC) system directly related to nutrition. The occupation title, description, and reported job titles are included in Exhibit 1.

Exhibit 1 – Occupations, description, and sample job titles

SOC Code	Title	Description	Sample of Reported Job Titles
29-2051	Dietetic Technician	Assist in the provision of food service and nutritional programs, under the supervision of a dietitian. May plan and produce meals based on established guidelines, teach principles of food and nutrition, or counsel individuals.	Certified Dietary Manager (CDM), Cook Chill Technician (CCT), Diet Assistant, Diet Clerk, Diet Tech (Diet Technician), Diet Tech (Dietetic Technician), Diet Technician Registered (DTR), Dietary Aid, Dietary Aide, Dietary Manager

Source: O*NET Online

Current and Future Employment

In Los Angeles County, the number of jobs for dietetic technicians is expected to increase by 11% over the next five years. Nearly 130 job opportunities will be available annually for this occupation through 2022 due to new job growth and replacement need (e.g., retirements). Exhibit 2 contains detailed employment projections data for this occupation.

Exhibit 2 – Five-year projections for dietetic technicians in Los Angeles County

SOC	Occupation	2017 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2017 – 2022 Change	2017 – 2022 % Change	Annual Openings
29-2051	Dietetic Technicians	1,230	1,367	137	11%	127

Source: EMSI 2018.2 – QCEW, non-QCEW, Self-Employed

Earnings

In Los Angeles County, the entry-level average wage for dietetic technicians is \$10.35 per hour, which is below the MIT Living Wage¹ estimate of \$13.54 per hour for a single adult. The average annual earnings for dietetic technicians in the region is \$33,000 per year, assuming full-time employment.

Exhibit 3 contains hourly wages and annual average earnings for the occupation studied in this report. Entry-level hourly earnings is represented by the 10th percentile of wages, median hourly earnings is represented by the 50th percentile of wages, and experienced hourly earnings is represented by the 90th percentile of wages, demonstrating various levels of employment.

Exhibit 3 – Earnings for dietetic technicians in Los Angeles County

SOC	Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings	Average Annual Earnings
29-2051	Dietetic Technicians	\$10.35	\$13.90	\$23.92	\$33,000

Source: EMSI 2018.2 – QCEW, non-QCEW, Self-Employed

¹ MIT Living Wage Calculator. <http://livingwage.mit.edu/>

Employer Job Postings

In this research brief, real-time labor market information is used to provide a more nuanced view of the current job market, as it captures job advertisements for occupations relevant to the field of study. Employer job postings are consulted to understand who is employing middle-skill nutrition workers, and what they are looking for in potential candidates. To identify middle-skill job postings related to nutrition the following keywords/search terms were used:

- SOC code for dietetic technician (29-2051);
- Job titles: diet* clerk, diet* assist*, diet* aid*, nutrition* ed* assist*, nutrition* assist*, community nutrition*; and
- Jobs requiring post-baccalaureate were excluded from this data brief, as these positions are above middle-skill.

Top Titles

The most common job titles for nutrition-related jobs are listed in Exhibit 4. Nutrition assistant was mentioned in 31% of all relevant job postings (76 postings), and diet/dietary clerk was mentioned in 29% of postings (72 postings).

Exhibit 4 –Job titles (n=248)

Title	Job Postings, Full Year 2017
Nutrition Assistant	76
Diet/Dietary Clerk	72
Dietary Aide	59
Diet/Dietetic Technician	7

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Top Employers

Exhibit 5 lists the major employers hiring professionals in the field of nutrition. Top employers postings job ads included both private health care companies and public school districts. The top worksite cities in the region for these occupations were Los Angeles, Lancaster, Torrance, Culver City, El Monte, and Glendale.

Exhibit 5 – Top employers (n=221)

Employer	Job Postings, Full Year 2017
Healthcare Services Group Incorporated	25
Compass Group	14
Westside Union School District	13
El Monte City Elementary	8
Prime Healthcare Services	7
Watts Health Center	7

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Certifications and Job Skills

As shown in Exhibit 6, a food handler/service certification is the most sought after certification for this occupation, and was included on 54% of the postings that specified a certification. The other certification that was largely present on postings was Registered Dietitian (36% of postings). Job-specific skills desired by employers are food preparation/service, patient care, nutrition services, and knowledge of allergies and allergic reactions.

Exhibit 6 – Job certifications (n=94) and job skills (n=178)

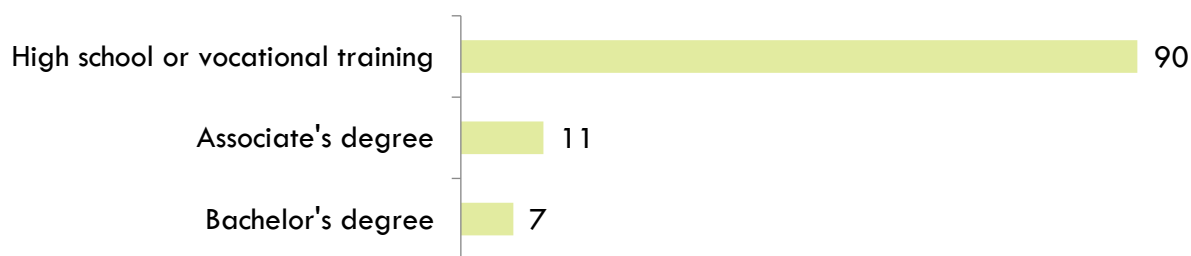
Certification	Job Postings, Full Year 2017	Skills	Job Postings, Full Year 2017
Food Handler/Service Certification	51	Food preparation/service	102
Registered Dietitian	34	Patient care	55
		Nutrition services	38
		Allergies/allergic reactions	37

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Advertised Education Levels

Exhibit 7 displays the education level requested by employers in online job ads. The majority of employers were looking for a candidate with high school or vocational training. Approximately 56% of job postings did not specify a level of education.

Exhibit 7 – Advertised education requirements for middle-skill nutrition jobs (n=108)



Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Education and Training

Exhibit 8 shows the typical entry-level education requirement for the occupation of interest, along with the typical on-the-job training, and percentage of workers in the field who hold a community college award or have completed some postsecondary courses. Over half of the dietetic technician workforce has completed some community college education as their highest level of education.

Exhibit 8 – Education and training requirements

SOC	Occupation	Typical entry-level education	Typical on-the-job training	% of Community College Award Holders or Some Postsecondary Coursework
29-2051	Dietetic Technicians	Associate degree	None	56%

Source: EMSI, Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Projections (Educational Attainment)

In Los Angeles County, four community colleges have conferred awards in nutrition, foods, and culinary arts programs. Between 2014 and 2017, there was an average of 24 community college awards conferred annually across one program: Nutrition, Foods, and Culinary Arts (1306.00). It is important to note that an award is not equivalent to a single person in search of a job opening, since a student may earn more than one award (e.g. an associate degree and a certificate).

Exhibit 9 – CCC Student Awards (by TOP and College)

TOP Code	Program	College	2014-2015 Awards	2015-2016 Awards	2017-2018 Awards	3-Year Award Average
1306.00	Nutrition, Foods, and Culinary Arts	Glendale	-	-	19	6
		LA Mission	-	2	2	1
		Mt. San Antonio	21	16	10	16
		Santa Monica	-	-	1	0
TOTAL			21	18	32	24

Source: California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office MIS Data Mart

Student Outcomes

The CTE LaunchBoard provides student outcome data on the effectiveness of CTE programs. The following student outcome information was collected from exiters of the Nutrition, Foods, and Culinary Arts Taxonomy of Program (TOP) code (1306.00) in Los Angeles County for the 2015-16 academic year.

- The median annual wage after program completion is \$21,578
- 67% of students are earning a living wage
- 34% of students are employed within six months after completing a program

Source: CTE LaunchBoard

Sources

O*Net Online, Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass), Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI), MIT Living Wage Calculator, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Education Attainment, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS) Data Mart, CTE LaunchBoard, Statewide CTE Outcomes Survey, Employment Development Department Unemployment Insurance Dataset

Notes

Data included in this analysis represents the labor market demand for positions most closely related to nutrition. Standard occupational classification (SOC) codes were chosen based on the national education level required for employment (associate degree and postsecondary certificate) as well as the proportion of current workers who hold a community college award or have had some community college training. This selection process narrows the labor market analysis to the most relevant employment opportunities for students with community college education and/or training.

Traditional labor market information was used to show current and projected employment based on data trends, as well as annual average awards granted by regional community colleges. Real-time labor market information captures job post advertisements for occupations relevant to the field of study and should not be used to establish current job openings, because the numbers may include duplicate job postings or postings intended to gather a pool of applicants. Real-time labor market information can signal demand and show what employers are looking for in potential employees, but is not a perfect measure of the quantity of open positions.